

WTWG Minutes for March 7, 2005

Rick Dieker	Larry Martin
Dave Brown	Jamie Morin
David Murillo	Joe Mentor
Bob Barwin	Perry Harvester
Chuck Garner	Jim Milton
Ron Van Gundy	Barry Goldstein
Tom Cowan	Bob Archey
Virgil Lallashute	Marianna Archey
Lee White	Justin Harter
Jim Davis	Kale Gullett
Ken Mitchell	Phil Crane
Stuart Crane	Tim Wiedert
Quentin Kreuter	Mike Macon
Stephen K. Fanciullo	Mike DeFair
Tom Rius	Jim Trull
Dar Crammond	Carron Helberg

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Dar Crammond. DC outlined the agenda by starting with a review of 2004.

DC and Bob Archey provided information about 2004 transfers, which included 25 to 30 transfers, varying in size from small to large, were completed. Then they addressed a “lessons learned” as to what did and did not work.

For 2005, the group discussed the ground rules. The group discussed the process, how often the Court will meet, whether to meet weekly or bi-weekly and for how long. The group agreed to contact the Acquavella Court and request more frequent hearings in April and May.

The box checklist appears to be the best tool overall, with questions being discussed on how the checklist would be used on groundwater transfers. Coordination with Ecology is extremely important in a drought year because of the two week turnaround time.

Joe Mentor asked a question concerning temporary versus emergency transfers. Bob Barwin explained the requirement for public notice has been eliminated for the duration of the drought. Steve Fanciullo indicated that this year first-come first-serve basis could be a factor and to denote the transfers as permanent or emergency.

Ron Van Gundy suggested a fill-in-the-blanks form to streamline the process. BB and BA suggested a website with the blank form & were tasked with formulating the form. Quentin Kreuter summarized how the run off could likely occur and suggested we make a forecast of system flexibility for these transfers (in AF).

The frequency of meetings was discussed and the group decided on every Monday at 1:30 PM. The exception to this is the next meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2005. The subsequent meeting would be on Monday, April 4, 2005, then weekly through May.

Post-1905 domestic user mitigation program: letters going out today concerning the leasing of water from Dept of Ecology; the highest price will be the most important criteria; seller per-acre price basis, a reverse auction. Bob Barwin explained a reduction in CU is transferable. (Land fallowed, acres being taken out of production). During the discussion, Jim Davis indicated SMID will file for a permanent change in their point of diversion with Dept of Ecology. DC commented that all the transfers will fit inside the box.

Joe Mentor asked after the reverse auction, will DOE release an unsuccessful bidders list. BB was not sure at this point. JM felt the unsuccessful bidders list should be disclosed. DC commented that Bob Barwin will coordinate with water storage rights. This will cause DOE to work with the districts, and also to keep in mind operational considerations, as well.

Bob Barwin will discuss the details of the CU calculation next meeting. DC commented that 6 or 7 transfers have come to the table and proposed to have the comments by the next meeting. The proposals will be emailed to DC and BB, and they will be added to the list.

The group adjourned at 11:30 AM.